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upon introduction of a gas into said bag, the flow of the gas within the bag is limited by said woven in joints thereby containing the gas in locations where inflation is desired and restricting inflation of said bag at locations where said woven in joints are present; all of said woven in joints consisting essentially of one or more straight line segments, and wherein said woven in joints form an inflatable portion having more than four interior sides. - -

no basis

REMARKS

Following entrance of the present amendment, Claims 1, 2, 3, 8, and 9 have been amended, and new Claim 10 - 40 have been added. Hence, Claims 1 - 40 are presented for consideration.

Submitted herewith are proposed drawing corrections to FIGS. 1 - 3 and 8 - 10 for review and approval.

Applicant respectfully corrects the drawings to include the porosity blocking coating 25, to change 312 to 12, 412 to 12, and 512 to 12, to add the end woven in joints 16, and to change 110 in FIG. 3A to 200. Applicant respectfully believes that the changes to the drawings (and changes to pages 7 and 19 in the specification) take care of all of the objections to the drawings.

Page 7 of the specification has been amended to change 210 to 200.

Page 11 of the specification has been amended to add proper antecedent basis for the closed end woven in joints.

Page 19 of the specification has been amended to add reference numeral 514.

Applicant respectfully believes that the changes to the specification (and drawings) take care of all

of the objections to the specification and disclosure.

Claim 9 has been amended to include the word “cushion” and thereby moot the objection to Claim 9.

Claims 1, 3, and 8 have been amended to address the Section 112 rejection of Claims 1 – 9.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Section 103 rejections of Claims 1 – 9 over HAland et al., Buchner et al., Thornton et al., and Kitamura in light of the amendment of Claim 1 and the following remarks.

Claims 1 – 9 are directed to a woven bag of non-jacquard construction such as a bag of dobby loom construction.

Further, Claims 1 – 9 are directed to a bag having yarns running in respective warp and weft directions (perpendicular to each other) and having woven in joints which lie in either the warp or weft direction.

Still further, Claims 1 – 9 are directed to a bag having woven in joints of one or more straight line segments.

HAland et al. appears to disclose an airbag formed of jacquard construction (woven on a jacquard loom). The airbag of Figure 1 of HAland et al. has a curved upper edge, angled interwoven lines defining cells 8, and a curve at one end of the lower edge 15. The airbag of Figures 6 – 8 of HAland et al. has a curved upper edge, angled corners, and a lower edge with a curved portion. Applicant respectfully believes that the airbags of HAland et al. could not be produced on a dobby loom.

Thornton et al. does not appear to disclose airbags having an inlet in the perimeter thereof, airbags with more than 4 internal sides, airbags with internal flow barriers, airbags with island internal flow barriers, airbags with peninsular internal flow barriers, or the like.

Figures 1 – 4 of Buchner et al. relate to a multi-component container formed by parts 3, 4, and 5. One part of the container of Buchner et al. is the loop-like outer section 5 (fabrics 5a, 5b). End caps 4 are joined to the loop-like section 5 by vulcanization along seams 7 and 8. Hence, Buchner et al. does not disclose a one piece, woven bag.

Kitamura appears to be directed to a jacquard woven airbag having a circular seam.

Applicant respectfully believes that the references relied upon in the rejection do not disclose the present invention, teach away from the present invention, do not provide the necessary motivation or suggestion for combination, are non-analogous art, would tend to destroy the function of the primary reference when combined, teach away from the combination, and/or the like.

Further, Applicant respectfully believes that any such combination of diverse references is based on improper hindsight and in error.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that respect is earnestly solicited.

Should any matter of form or language stand in the way of allowance of the present application, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone conference to resolve such issues.

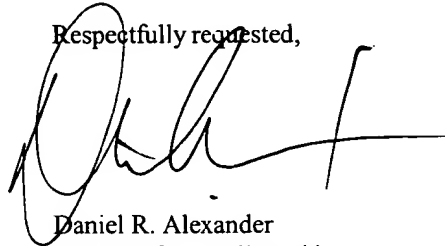
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees as may be required for timely acceptance of the Amendment transmitted herewith and/or to credit any surplus to Deposit Account No.

04-0500. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

February 6, 2002

MILLIKEN & COMPANY
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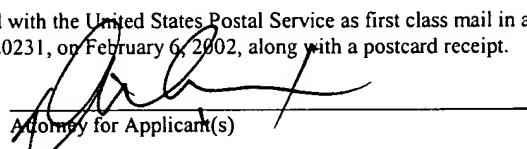
Respectfully requested,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on February 6, 2002, along with a postcard receipt.


Attorney for Applicant(s)

CLEAN COPY OF THE SPECIFICATION – Pages 7, 11, and 19

Page 7, **replace** the paragraph at lines 4 – 6 with:

FIG. 3 A illustrates a possible arrangement of an airbag inflatable cushion 200 for on loom production of the inflatable restraint cushion 110 as illustrated in FIG. 2.

Page 11, **between** lines 12 and 14, **insert**:

As shown in, for example, FIGS. 1 – 3, a plurality of the woven-in joints 16 define closed perimeter joints and form a closed edge or end between the face portion and the rear portion.

Page 19, **replace** lines 1 – 6 with:

embodiment of substantial point shaped connections as may be utilized is illustrated in FIG 9 wherein the flow barrier elements 414 take on a double box cross configuration as may be useful in distributing the load at those points. It is also contemplated to be within the scope of the present invention to utilize combinations of horizontal and vertical connections 514 so as to channel the inflation media to all desired locations. One such arrangement is illustrated in FIG 10.

CLEAN COPY OF THE CLAIMS

AS

1. (Amended) An inflatable airbag cushion comprising: a woven bag of non-jacquard construction, wherein said bag comprises a face portion and a rear portion formed from a first fabric layer and a second fabric layer, each of said first and second fabric layers being defined by a plurality of polymeric warp yarns running in a warp direction interposed by a plurality of polymeric weft yarns running in a weft direction substantially transverse to said warp direction; said bag further comprising a plurality of woven in joints, said woven in joints being arranged so as to define flow barriers between said face portion and said rear portion such that upon introduction of a gas into said bag, the flow of the gas within the bag is limited by said woven in joints thereby containing the gas in locations where inflation is desired and restricting inflation of said bag at locations where said woven in joints are present; at least a portion of at least one of said woven in joints extending in both the warp direction and the weft direction between said face portion and said rear portion, and all of said woven in joints consisting essentially of one or more straight line segments, at least one of said woven-in joints forming at least one of a closed edge and end between said face portion and said rear portion to prevent gas from escaping from said airbag cushion upon the introduction of gas into said cushion, and wherein at least one of said flow barriers comprise substantially parallel woven in joints separated from one another by at least two yarns and no more than twelve yarns in each layer of fabric.

2. (Amended) The invention according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of said flow barriers comprise box structures disposed across the interior of said bag.

3. (Amended) The invention according to Claim 2, wherein said box structures are of multiple cornered construction.

ple 8. (Amended) The invention according to Claim 1, wherein the woven-in joints are separated by an area of said first and second layers of fabric.

9. (Amended) The invention according to Claim 1, wherein the airbag cushion is in the shape of a rectangle.

10. An inflatable airbag cushion comprising: a woven bag of non-jacquard construction, wherein said bag comprises a face portion and a rear portion formed from a first fabric layer and a second fabric layer, each of said first and second fabric layers being defined by a plurality of polymeric warp yarns running in a warp direction interposed by a plurality of polymeric weft yarns running in a weft direction substantially transverse to said warp direction; said bag further comprising a plurality of woven in joints, said woven in joints being arranged so as to define flow barriers between said face portion and said rear portion such that upon introduction of a gas into said bag, the flow of the gas within the bag is limited by said woven in joints thereby containing the gas in locations where inflation is desired and restricting inflation of said bag at locations where said woven in joints are present, at least one of said woven in joints defining an interior flow barrier, a plurality of said woven in joints defining closed perimeter joints, and said bag having at least one inlet opening along the perimeter thereof, all of said woven in joints consisting essentially of one or more straight line segments.

11. The invention according to Claim 10, wherein said internal flow barriers comprise box structures disposed across the interior of said bag.

12. The invention according to Claim 11, wherein said box structures are of multiple cornered construction.

13. The invention according to Claim 10, wherein said warp yarns and said weft yarns are formed

from a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyester, Nylon 6 and Nylon 6.6.

14. The invention according to Claim 10, wherein said bag further comprises a porosity blocking coating.
15. The invention according to Claim 10, wherein the airbag cushion is in the shape of a rectangle.
16. The invention according to Claim 10, wherein at least one of said internal flow barriers extends in both the warp direction and weft direction.
19. The invention according to Claim 10, wherein at least one of said internal flow barriers forms a peninsula which projects from an edge of said bag into the interior thereof.
20. The invention according to Claim 10, wherein a plurality of said internal flow barriers form peninsulas each of which project from an edge of said bag into the interior thereof.
19. The invention according to Claim 10, wherein at least one of said internal flow barriers forms an island in the interior of said bag not connected to an edge of said bag.
20. The invention of Claim 10, wherein a plurality of said internal flow barriers form respective islands in the interior of said bag not connected to an edge of said bag.
21. The invention of Claim 10, wherein at least one of said internal flow barriers is the shape of a T.
22. The invention of Claim 10, wherein at least one of said internal flow barriers is in the shape of a

cross.

23. An inflatable airbag cushion comprising: a woven bag of non-jacquard construction, wherein said bag comprises a face portion and a rear portion formed from a first fabric layer and a second fabric layer, each of said first and second fabric layers being defined by a plurality of polymeric warp yarns running in a warp direction interposed by a plurality of polymeric weft yarns running in a weft direction substantially transverse to said warp direction; said bag further comprising a plurality of woven in joints, said woven in joints being arranged so as to define flow barriers between said face portion and said rear portion such that upon introduction of a gas into said bag, the flow of the gas within the bag is limited by said woven in joints thereby containing the gas in locations where inflation is desired and restricting inflation of said bag at locations where said woven in joints are present, all of said woven in joints consisting essentially of one or more straight line segments, and wherein at least a portion of said flow barriers comprise substantially parallel woven in joints separated from one another by at least two yarns and no more than twelve yarns in each layer of fabric.

24. The invention according to Claim 23, wherein said flow barriers comprise box structures disposed across the interior of said bag.

25. The invention according to Claim 24, wherein said box structures are of multiple cornered construction.

26. The invention according to Claim 23, wherein said warp yarns and said weft yarns are formed from a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyester, Nylon 6 and Nylon 6.6.

27. The invention according to Claim 23, wherein said bag further comprises a porosity blocking

coating.

28. An invention according to Claim 23, wherein said parallel woven in joints are separated from one another by no more than eight yarns in each layer of fabric.

29. The invention according to Claim 23, wherein said parallel woven in joints are separated from one another by no more than four yarns in each layer of fabric.

30. The invention according to Claim 23, wherein the woven-in joints are separated by an area of two layers of fabric.

31. The invention according to Claim 23, wherein the airbag cushion is in the shape of a rectangle.

32. An inflatable airbag cushion comprising: a woven bag of non-jacquard construction, wherein said bag comprises a face portion and a rear portion formed from a first fabric layer and a second fabric layer, each of said first and second fabric layers being defined by a plurality of polymeric warp yarns running in a warp direction interposed by a plurality of polymeric weft yarns running in a weft direction substantially transverse to said warp direction; said bag further comprising a plurality of woven in joints, said woven in joints being arranged so as to define flow barriers between said face portion and said rear portion such that upon introduction of a gas into said bag, the flow of the gas within the bag is limited by said woven in joints thereby containing the gas in locations where inflation is desired and restricting inflation of said bag at locations where said woven in joints are present, all of said woven in joints consisting essentially of one or more straight line segments, at least some of said woven-in joints forming closed edges between said face portion and said rear portion to prevent gas from escaping from said airbag cushion upon the introduction of gas into said cushion, and wherein said woven in joints form an inflatable portion having

more than four interior sides.

33. The invention according to Claim 32, wherein said inflatable portion has at least six interior sides.

34. An inflatable airbag cushion comprising: a woven bag of non-jacquard construction, wherein said bag comprises a face portion and a rear portion formed from a first fabric layer and a second fabric layer, each of said first and second fabric layers being defined by a plurality of polymeric warp yarns running in a warp direction interposed by a plurality of polymeric weft yarns running in a weft direction substantially transverse to said warp direction; said bag further comprising a plurality of woven in joints, said woven in joints being arranged so as to define flow barriers between said face portion and said rear portion such that upon introduction of a gas into said bag, the flow of the gas within the bag is limited by said woven in joints thereby containing the gas in locations where inflation is desired and restricting inflation of said bag at locations where said woven in joints are present, all of said woven in joints consisting essentially of one or more straight line segments, and at least one of said woven-in joints forming a peninsula which projects from a side of the bag into the interior thereof.

35. The invention according to Claim 34, wherein at least two of said woven-in joints form peninsulas.

36. The invention according to Claim 34, wherein at least a portion of said woven-in joints forming said peninsula comprises substantially parallel woven-in joints.

37. An inflatable airbag cushion comprising: a woven bag of non-jacquard construction, wherein said bag comprises a face portion and a rear portion formed from a first fabric layer and a second fabric layer, each of said first and second fabric layers being defined by a plurality of polymeric warp yarns running in a warp direction interposed by a plurality of polymeric weft yarns running in a weft direction substantially

transverse to said warp direction; said bag further comprising a plurality of woven in joints, said woven in joints being arranged so as to define flow barriers between said face portion and said rear portion such that upon introduction of a gas into said bag, the flow of the gas within the bag is limited by said woven in joints thereby containing the gas in locations where inflation is desired and restricting inflation of said bag at locations where said woven in joints are present, all of said woven in joints consisting essentially of one or more straight line segments, and at least one of said woven-in joints forming an island not connected to a side of the bag.

38. The invention according to Claim 37, wherein said bag has a plurality of said islands.

39. The invention according to Claim 37, wherein said island is formed of substantially parallel woven-in joints.

40. An inflatable airbag cushion comprising: a woven bag of non-jacquard construction, wherein said bag comprises a face portion and a rear portion formed from a first fabric layer and a second fabric layer, each of said first and second fabric layers being defined by a plurality of polymeric warp yarns running in a warp direction interposed by a plurality of polymeric weft yarns running in a weft direction substantially transverse to said warp direction; said bag further comprising a plurality of woven in joints, said woven in joints being arranged so as to define flow barriers between said face portion and said rear portion such that upon introduction of a gas into said bag, the flow of the gas within the bag is limited by said woven in joints thereby containing the gas in locations where inflation is desired and restricting inflation of said bag at locations where said woven in joints are present; all of said woven in joints consisting essentially of one or more straight line segments, and wherein said woven in joints form an inflatable portion having more than four interior sides.